Chapter 120: False Image of a Hero
THIRTY-ONE YEARS AFTER THE DEATH OF HIMMEL THE HERO
IMPERIAL TERRITORY BOHNE VILLAGE
THE LIBERATION FESTIVAL?
YES.
IT JUST HAPPENS TO BE TONIGHT.
IT'S A COINCIDENCE THAT YOU ADVENTURERS ARRIVED WHEN YOU DID.
PLEASE DO JOIN US TONIGHT.
ENJOY YOUR STAY.
THEY'RE CELEBRATING SOMETHING?
IT IS INDEED BUSTLING HERE.
RIGHT.
IT'S THAT SEASON ALREADY.
THE LIBERATION FESTIVAL IS CELEBRATED IN IMPERIAL TERRITORY ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEMON KING'S DEFEAT.
I HEARD IT'S A REALLY BIG CELEBRATION. THERE MIGHT EVEN BE A FEAST.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE HAD A DECENT MEAL.
I CAN'T WAIT.
THEY REALLY GO ALL OUT FOR THIS, HUH?
MISTRESS FRIEREN, WHERE SHOULD WE START?
LET'S HEAD TO THE SQUARE FIRST.
ACCORDING TO THE MAYOR, TOUCHING THE STATUE OF HIMMEL WILL BRING YOU GOOD LUCK.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT...?
ANYWAY, IT DOESN'T COST ANYTHING.
YOU CAN MISS OUT IF YOU DON'T AT LEAST TRY THIS SORT OF STUFF.
I'M GOING TO TOUCH IT JUST IN CASE.
NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY FRIEREN ALWAYS FALLS FOR MIMIC TRAPS...
IT'S QUITE BUSY, ISN'T IT?
FRIEREN.
HIMMEL'S STATUE IS OVER THERE.
WHAT THE...? WHO'S THIS GEEZ–
WAIT...
IS THIS HIMMEL THE HERO?
THIS STATUE OF HIMMEL LOOKS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER ONES.
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS DESIGN IS GOOD OR BAD.
THIS GUY IS MUSCULAR, AND HE'S GOT A BRAVE FACE...
ALSO, WHAT'S UP WITH THE NOBLEMAN'S CLOTHES?
COULD HE REALLY FIGHT WEARING ALL THAT?
WELL, THIS KIND OF INTERPRETATION IS NOT UNCOMMON IN IMPERIAL TERRITORY.
THE GREAT MAGE FLAMME, FOR INSTANCE...
...HAS BEEN TURNED INTO SOME RANDOM OLD MAN.
Who is this...?
HEROES HAVE BEEN DEIFIED AND WORSHIPPED IN IMPERIAL TERRITORY FOR AGES.
THEY ONLY DO THAT WITH THE DECEASED, THOUGH.
THIS STATUE IS BRAND-NEW, TOO.
THEY MUST HAVE PUT IT UP RECENTLY.
ISN'T IT MAGNIFICENT?
THE PREVIOUS STATUE OF HIMMEL THE HERO WAS QUITE OLD...
...SO WE COLLECTED DONATIONS FROM THE VILLAGERS TO BUILD A NEW ONE.
I'M SURE HIMMEL THE HERO LOOKS DOWN UPON IT FROM HEAVEN IN DELIGHT.
HEY, ISN'T THIS STATUE–
IT'S OKAY, STARK.
NO NEED TO RAIN ON THEIR PARADE.
SAYING THAT WON'T HELP ANYTHING ANYWAY.
THEY HAVE FAITH, AFTER ALL.
PEOPLE REVERE HIMMEL THE HERO MORE AND MORE THE FARTHER NORTH YOU GO.
FAITH?
THAT'S RIGHT. FAITH IN A FALSE IMAGE OF HIMMEL THAT'S FAR FROM WHO HE REALLY WAS.
THAT DOESN'T SIT RIGHT WITH ME.
BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT THOUGH.
NO ONE HERE HAS ANY MALICIOUS INTENT.
THE PEOPLE HERE LOVE AND APPRECIATE HIMMEL.
THAT'S WHY THEY BUILT SUCH AN IMPRESSIVE STATUE.
BUT I DON'T THINK THAT FORMAL, NOBLE LOOK...
...WOULD BE HIS CUP OF TEA.
ANYWAY, WE'RE AT A FESTIVAL. WE SHOULD ENJOY OURSELVES.
AND THEN HIMMEL THE HERO...
...SLICED A SERPENT SAID TO BE 100 METERS LONG RIGHT IN HALF!!
AWE-SOME!!
I DON'T RECALL YOU DOING THAT.
IT'S TRUE THAT HE SLAYED A SERPENT IN THIS VILLAGE...
...BUT IT WAS 10 METERS LONG AT MOST.
NAH, IT WAS AT LEAST 200 METERS LONG.
YOU SHOULDN'T LIE, YOU KNOW.
SHOW-OFF.
I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE THIS MORE SERIOUSLY.
WE'VE ONLY JUST DEFEATED THE DEMON KING, AND ALREADY THESE STORIES ABOUT US ARE SPREADING.
SOON ENOUGH, THESE STORIES WILL GET BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION...
...UNTIL THEY BECOME ACCEPTED AS THE TRUTH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT'S HOW THE TALE OF OUR ADVENTURE WILL SLOWLY CHANGE.
IT'S A SHAME...
BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH THE RUMORS AND LEGENDS ABOUT US CHANGE...
...WHAT WE ACTUALLY ACHIEVED WILL ALWAYS BE THE SAME.
OUR JOURNEY WAS SILLY, BUT IT WAS EXCITING...
...AND IN THE END, WE SAVED THE WORLD.
ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
YOU WERE RIGHT.
EVEN THOUGH THEY DON'T REMEMBER OUR ACTUAL STORY, THESE PEOPLE CELEBRATE THE WORLD YOU SAVED, HIMMEL.
THE FESTIVAL WAS FUN...
...WAS IT NOT?
IT SURE WAS.
BY THE WAY, FRIEREN.
AN OLD MAN IN THE VILLAGE TOLD ME THAT HIMMEL THE HERO CUT A THOUSAND-METER LONG SERPENT IN HALF...
FOR REAL?
THAT'S JUST INSANE...
IT'S GOTTEN A HUNDRED TIMES BIGGER...

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